

David Charles'

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NOVEMBER 26, 1932

BRUINS PROVE TOO SWIFT FOR OTTAWA

Boston Boys Roll Up Three-Goal Lead in First Period - Connell Stars in Visitors' Goal

By Victor O. Jones, The Boston Globe

Outclassing their opposition in the matter of reserve strength, the Boston Bruins last night defeated the reinstated Ottawa Senators, 6 to 4, in a free scoring game which did not fail to evoke the enthusiasm of another subnormal crowd of perhaps 8000

The victory, the third straight for the Bruins on garden ice, further consolidated their position at the head of American division and showed once again that the locals are a well-balanced, high-scoring outfit.

Two Sparkling Goals

Boston last night led by the redoubtable Eddie Shore, who did more rushing than he has in many months and whose two goals were sparkling additions to the Boston cause. Marty Barry also scored a brace, with the other counters going to Frank Jerwa and Harry Oliver, with assists distributed among Red Beattie, Obs Heximer, Oliver, Dit Clapper and Nels Stewart.

Ottawa, save when its first line with Cooney Weiland, at center, was in action, had no chance. Cooney scored the first Sensational goal, but then Ottawa wasn't in it again until Boston got generous with a 5-to-1 lead.

Bruins Get Three

At the start of the game, Ottawa's first line of Weiland and the two Kilreas more than played Boston even, with Cooney getting in for the first shot, which Thomson saved brilliantly. A minute later Smith hit one of the Boston posts after taking Wally Kilrea's pass.

When the second and third lines came on, however, Boston outclassed the visitors and rang up three goals before the regulars tumbled over the boards again. Beattie engineered the first goal, stick handling down the right through the whole Sensational team to the door step where he lost a duel of wits with Connell. But oliver swept in and jabbed the rebound into an open net at 6:07.

A pass, Shore to Oliver, then started a scrimmage on which Connell gave a supernatural demonstration of goal guarding, fending off four hot drives while prone on the ice 10 feet out of

his cage, with Milks standing in the goal behind him.

Boston's attack was not to be denied, however, and Jerwa snagged the next goal on a play which Heximer started down the right. Connell was outlucked when Jerwa's sharply angled backhander from close range slid off his pads and just dropped over the line.

Shore made it three with a solo dash down the middle, firing from just outside the defense, beating Connell with a wicked waist-high drive close to the post.

Weiland's Quick Goal

Boston maintained its three-goal margin through a lively middle stanza, during which the hockey fell off somewhat while both teams concentrated on stick waving and bodily contact.

Weiland started the fun 50 seconds after the faceoff when he rang up an Ottawa goal after taking a passout from Wally Kilrea.

Then the penalties started arriving. Tohey had to hold Clapper to prevent his scoring on Stewart's pass, but the Boston siege ended when Shore was canned for dumping Howe. Cooney almost scored on Hec Kilrea's pass and then Shields was evacuated for handling the puck. Followed a period of short-handed shinney among the subs, with Shore returning to render the pewholders delirious with repeated rushes.

Thompson made a great save of Milks' shot. Stewart immediately afterwards got within range of Starr, the wrestler who used to be his teammate at Montreal, and administered a well-conceived flying mare. The two rose prepared for battle, but were sent to the cooler before any more damage was done.

Daring Solo

Shields soon was debarred for tripping Barry, despite Connell's vociferous protests, and while Ottawa was playing four against five, Shore got back Boston's first period advantage by converting Oliver's easy pass after Weiland had got caught up the ice on a daring solo.

The period ended with Shaw and W. Kilrea doing short stretches for infrngements of the Code Calder but things otherwise under control.

Lively Final Period

Shortly after the start of the final stanza Boston went to 5 to 2 when Barry scored an easy goal. Stewart started the play, but was tripped by Cooney and took a prodigious header. He picked himself up in time to stop a counter attack, carried across the line, and then lost control of the puck. Clapper lobbed a long shot off Connell's pads and Barry was waiting there for the rebound.

Galbraith was canned for interfering with McInenly and while he was off, Shore and Mac almost came to blows, and Shields dribbled his way through the short-handed Bruins'

defense for Ottawa's second goal. But with all hands back Barry got his second goal of the period, snagging Stewart's forward pass and then beating Connell just before crashing head-first into the post.

That was all save for Ottawa's closing rally, which turned into something more than a gesture when Chapman was canned and Smith and Bourgeault scored Sanatorial goals out of fierce scrimmages during his absence.

FEBRUARY 2, 1975

BRUINS BLAST FLYERS; SHOT HURTS GILBERT

By Francis Rosa, The Boston Globe

Bobby Orr had one of his nighyts - somehow Philadelphia let him play his game - and the Bruins had one of their better nights (there is a direct relationship).

And you know what happened: Orr figured in every goal and the Bruins defeated Philadelphia, 5-1, at the Garden last night.

Then there was the Flyers' impetuous Dave Schultz (whose non-hockey activities are getting to be a bore). Schultz was hardly a factor in the game, and he tangled at various times with Bobby Schmautz, Andre Savard, Terry O'Reilly and even goalie Gilles Gilbert.

Gilbert put together two good games back-to-back (Saturday in Toronto and last night). But - he was going to have the third finger of his right hand X-rayed after a Bill Clement shot hit it under the blocker (the big pad on his stick hand) in the third period.

"We're a little concerned about it," said coach Don Cherry. "It hit me under that pad," said Gilbert in the dressing room, as he went to put ice on it. "I hope it's not broken."

The Bruins really wheeled to victory in the first period with a burst of three goals - just when the crowd had sat in restless silence for 10 minutes of non-descript hockey.

Johnny Bucyk got the crowd stirred up with a goal at 12:56. Phil Esposito kept it that way with his 47th at 15:17 and Gregg Sheppard put the game away with 12 seconds to go in the period.

They added single goals in the second period (Orr) and third (Sheppard again).

"He had five points," said Joe Watson of the Flyers, meaning, of course, Orr, "and when he's going like that you can't very well stop the Bruins."

"That wasn't the same Philadelphia club we played in the finals last year," said Orr, "and not the same Philadelphia we see most of the time. Maybe they were down."

Maybe flat? "Flat," said coach Fred Shero of Philadelphia, "I don't know the meaning of the word."

Whatever it was the Philadelphia club was last night, it was not up to its usual performance rate.

The Flyers only goal came from Bill Barber on a power play late in the second period (19:04) on a shot from the slot that hit something or somebody and went by Gilbert's right side.

And then there was Dave Schultz.

But first the Boston goals: Bucyk's - a backhander after a great move on Ed van Impe - and after Don Marcotte had played the puck around Jimmy atson quite nicely. Esposito's - a quick

wrist shot to Bernie Parent's right side - where there wasn't much room. "Someone fell down in front of me and he shot so fast I couldn't get over," said Parent. Sheppard's first - a 12-footer past parent's left side on a good pass up from Al Sims. Orr's 31st - a 45-footer from the right point off Parent's stick. Sheppard's 2d (17th of the season) - He was sprung at the Philadelphia's blue line by a Dallas Smith. "I took his first shot," Parent said, "and I lost the puck." Said Sheppard, "It was in the air when I whacked it again."

Now for Schultz. "At my size I don't go around picking on people," he said. No matter, he wanted to fight a few people and finally did at 9:03 of the third period - Terry O'Reilly, the linesmen, and then he also tried to hit Savard.

The most menacing moment however, was in the second period when he and Gilbert exchanged high sticks in the Boston crease. Then Schultz slashed at Carol Vadnais at the blue line. By that time Gilbert had gone to the gate of the Bruins bench and as Schultz skated by they raised their sticks at each other.

NOVEMBER 11, 1983

CELTICS KEEP ROLLING

By Dan Shaughnessy, The Boston Globe

You can find flaws if you look hard enough. The Celtics refuse to bury opponents. They have a phulanthropic streak that inspires them to let beaten teams back into ballgames. They also have yet to score 140 points or hold an opponent under 60.

While we're at it, let's mention that Brooke Shields could use a few pounds, and that it would be nice if Michael Jackson would learn the slide trombone.

The Green Team's giddy glide through November continued at Boston Garden last night. On the strength of a 39-point performance by Larry Joe bird, the celtics beat the detroit Pistons, 126-118, avenging their opening night beating in the Silverdome and extending their winning streak to seven games.

They did all of this on the strength of a 45-31 first quarter in which they vaporized the visitors, hitting 19 of 24 floor shots.

The margin was down to 12 at the half, and Detroit actually took a one-point lead in the third, but Bird, Robert Parish (28, 12 rebounds) and Kevin McHale (23, 12 rebounds) refused to crumble to the Detroit wheels this time. Boston's treetop trio combined for a whoping 90 points and 32 rebounds while hitting 35 of 52 floor shots (67 percent).

"They played like they want to win a world championship," said Detroit coach Chuck Daly. "Bird had a classic game, and they just ran it down our throats. They had revenge on their minds."

Bird was particularly accurate. Playing both forward and guard, he had 16 in the first quarter, 22 at halftime and 33 after three periods. When Kelly (Scarface) Tripuka (26 points) led the Pistons back into it, Bird and his sidekicks, Parish and McHale, were there to answer.

"When you get in trouble, you want to go with your power, especially down the stretch," said Celtic coach K.C. Jones.

"That's why we went with Larry in the backcourt and kept trying to get the ball down low."

The fourth-quarter surge should have been for the benefit of

Greg Kite and Carlos Clark. Boston's first-half explosion should have buried the Pistons.

Gerald Henderson scored 11 in the first six minutes as the Celtics burst to a 27-12 lead. think about that: 27 points in six minutes would mean 216 points in 48 minutes. When the quarter was over, the Celts led, 45-31, and already had three players in double figures.

"All around, I'd say it was our best quarter of the season," said Parish.

Detroit's Isiah Thomas (27, eight assists) didn't get untracked until the second quarter. His running mate, Tripuka, waited until the second half, but had an excuse. He suffered a 10-stitch cut Tuesday and wore goggles throughout the first quarter. Tripuka was no Kareem Abdul-Jabbar with goggles. His game improved markedly when he discarded the protection.

A Scott Wedman jumper before halftime gave the Celtics their biggest lead, 67-50. Detroit trimmed the deficit to a dozen by intermission and roared to a short-lived lead in the third quarter.

The Celtics were at their giveaway worst in the opening minutes of the third. Boston players stood around and admired Thomas and Co. for six minutes after halftime. In that stretch, Detroit outscored Boston, 21-9, and when Tripuka hit a jumper from the left corner, detroit had its only lead, 80-79, with 6:03 left in the third.

Parish got the lead back on a followup, the start of a 6-0 Celtic run. A jumper out top by Bird made it 85-80. With Bird and Parish taking charge, the Celts went on another roll and managed to push their lead back to 102-89 by the end of the quarter.

In the fourth, Detroit got to within six with 3:48 left, but McHale responded with three consecutive baskets to give the Celtics a 122-110 lead and the ballgame.

"We've been losing leads like this all season long," noted Bird, who had 8 rebounds, 5 assists and 4 blocks to go along with his 39 points. "Hopefully we won't keep doing it in the future.

"If we were playing a team like Philadelphia, Milwaukee or New York, we wouldn't be so lucky," he said. "It seems that when we have a lead, we have lapses on defense and they come back on us."

greatest of ease, looking even more impressive than when he beat the Tigers at Fenway Park last Monday. In six of the nine innings, he set the Senators down in order.

Partee Paces Attack

The Sox supported Galehouse with an 11-hit attack paced by Roy Partee, who cracked out three singles. the old reliables of last year's American League champions - Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky and Cap'n Bobby Doerr - chipped in with a pair of timely wallops. They are happy at having Denny back with them. You can say "ditto" for Denny.

Eddie Yost made two of the hits off Galehouse. He conked Denny's first serve for a single. Then Galehouse set down the next nine men in order. Yost came up at this stage and rapped out a long, harmless double.

Denny walked two men, Mickey Vernon and Stan Spence, to open the fourth. A double play recued him. With two out in the seventh, Gerry Priddy and Al Evans singled in succession. Denny got out of this hole by retiring Cecil Travis on a routine fly to Williams.

The Sox found elongated Sid Hudson wild and hitable. With one gone in the first, Sid walked Pesky and Williams. Sam Mele forced Ted at second. A pass to Doerr loaded the bases and "Pappy" Leon Culperson singled sharply to right to give Galehouse a two-run working margin before he threw a ball. those markers were all dapper Denny needed.

A triple by Pesky and a Williams single gave the Sox another run in the fifth. Williams tripled to the left field corner - yeah, left field against an over-shifted Washington defense - and Mele's long fly to Lewis gave the Sox another tally in the seventh.

The big explosion came in the ninth when little Marino Pieretti was rocked for four runs. Pesky started the assault on Pieretti with a single. Williams drew his 79th walk of the year. When Mela strolled the bases were loaded. Doerr drove in two runs with a single. Pellagrini drove in a third with a clean hit to right. Partee chased over the final marker with his third hit, a long, line single to left.

HIT AND RUN

Joe Cronin takes the wraps off Bill Zuber as a starter tomorrow. . . .Bill will share the mound duties with Dave Ferriss in the double-header against the Athletics. . . .Today Cronin sent Dom DiMaggio in to see Dr. Charles Larkin, the Senators' physician. . . .The doctor told Cronin that Dom was almost well, ordered rest and barred further massaging. . . .He said that Dom should be ready in three days, possibly in time to play versus the Yankees in Fenway Park Monday night. . . .Cronin was hoping that the forenoon rain would last all day and the Senators would have to call off the game. . . .The reason for this is that Joe is hard up for pitchers. . . .He is at a loss as to which pitcher to throw in against the Yankees. . . .He may wind up with Tex Hughson, will have had five days rest. . . .Tex stated that he had similar elbow trouble from which he is suffering now in 1943 and '44. . . ."But it's a little sorer this season," Tex added. . . .He may undergo an operation at the end of the campaign. . . .Tex reported that his chief difficulty this year is lack of control. . . ."My elbow gets sore early in the game," stated Tex, "and when it hurts I haven't any control. There were two games this year in which I walked 13 men. That used to be all I'd walk in a half season in other years. I don't ever remember being behind the hitters as much as I've been this season."

JUNE 28, 1947

SOX WALLOP NATS, 8-0, ON GALEHOUSE 4-HITTER

By Hy Hurwitz, The Boston Globe

WASHINGTON - Denny Galehouse continued to make Joe Cronin look like a native rather than an adopted Yankee trader.

The veteran righthander brought to abrupt end the Washington Senators local winning streak over the Red Sox by hurling the pennant defenders to a lop-sided 8-0 triumph before a 8336 ladies-gathering here this afternoon. It was the first time in six tries that the Red Sox have won here this season.

Bought by Cronin for the waiver price one week ago, Galehouse picked up his second straight win in a Red Sox suit. He held the Senators to four hits. He went the route with the

FEUD DEPARTMENT - Is Joe Cronin's father-in-law angry at Joe's boss. . . You'd gather this much from an interview which appeared in a local paper today. . . Shirley Povich, a Marine boy made good in the nation's capital, quoted Pres. Clark Griffith of the Washington Senators in a discussion on night baseball as follows: "Consarn it, you've got to give people what they want. It's all Tom Yawkey's fault. He wouldn't agree to let the Red Sox play another night game this trip. He won't let 'em play more than two games in any other city. We ought to change the league rules saying we have to get the visiting club's consent before we can schedule night games." . . Yawkey is a staunch believer in a small limit on night baseball. . . He doesn't ask any other clubs to play more than two night games per season at Fenway Park and is within his rights in not playing more than that number in other cities. . . But it is sure strange to hear "Uncle" Clark popping off on Massa Tom.

SHORT STUFF - Leon Culberson celebrated the birth of his third child late Friday by starting his first game of the season at third base. . . He played five games there last season. . . He is the fifth third sacker Cronin has used so far this year. . . A year ago, Joe used seven. . . So he still has two more to go. . . The question is, where will he get 'em. . . Not until the fourth inning did the Senators hit a ball on the ground. . . Two passes had enabled Washington to have runners on first and third with one out. . . Gerry Priddy rolled down to Pesky and Johnny started an inning-ending double play.

In 18 innings for the Red Sox, Galehouse has given up 10 hits and two runs. . . For the St. Louis Browns, he was battered for 42 hits and 19 runs over 32.2 innings. . . A change of uniform has done wonders for Denny. . . With his two hits, Williams went over the 300 mark again. . . Pesky hit safely in his ninth straight game and is only three points below the charmed circle. . . Birdie Tebbets' left thumb is still troubling him but he will try and work one of the games tomorrow. . . The Sox caught a 7 o'clock train for Philadelphia. . . Tomorrow night, they fly home to Boston. . . That is, about half of the team will fly. Thirteen members of the Sox party signed up to ride a sleeper back to Boston.

JUNE 24, 1970

SCHOFIELD'S TRIPLE TIPS ORIOLES, 6-5

Dick Clears Bases in 7th, Scores on Sacrifice Fly

By Clif Keane, The Boston Globe

It was a night for earmuffs until the seventh. The "Razz Yaz" club was out in force, and the Red Sox were getting the business from the 25,003. But little Dick Schofield changed the mood when he cleared the bases with a triple while the Red Sox were scoring five runs in the seventh, to beat the Orioles, 6-5.

Schofield had been pressed into service when Mike Andrews couldn't play second base because he had hurt his back lifting one of his kids. Schofield looked none the worse for lugging his mates to a victory last night. It was his first extra base hit of the year.

Vicente Romo finally made the bullpen look like anything but a load of flotsam and jetsam. The Mexican came on after the five-run inning and stopped the Orioles, he had to get out of a bases loaded jam in the eighth, and he left an Oriole on third in the ninth.

Until Schofield jumped at an Ed Watt fast ball in the seventh, the fans were getting noisier and noisier. The only time they thought the Red Sox were doing anything well was when Reggie Smith homered in the first inning off right hander Jim Harden.

That run was wiped out in the third off Sonny Siebert, who didn't get by a single hitter last night. It looked as though the Orioles were going to coast in.

In that third the Orioles had their home run thunder working back to back. Don Buford had singled and stolen second and, on consecutive pitches, Paul Blair and Frank Robinson drilled Siebert's pitches out of the ball park.

In the fourth, Brooks Robinson opened with a homer and the Orioles had their fifth run in the seventh when Bedford stole home on Gary Wagner, just brought up from Louisville. But Gary wound up with the win in the bottom in the inning.

Hardin hadn't walked a hitter in the first six innings and had given up only four hits. But he walked George Scott to start things.

George stole second and from there came nothing but trouble for the Orioles.

Hardin couldn't get his slider over to Billy Conigliaro and walked him, and when Tom Satriano came to bat and Hardin got into a two-ball hole, out came pitching coach George Bamberger of the Orioles to talk to his right hander.

Hardin got the ball over to Satriano. Tom drilled it into right field for a single to score Scott, with Billy stopping at second base, and that ended Hardin.

The next choice was Watt, and the Red Sox sent up Mike Fiore to bat for Wagner. When Fiore walked, Mgr. Weaver of the Orioles came hustling out of the dugout.

The peewee boss of the Orioles had a noisy chat with Watt and the count went to 3-2 on Schofield. Dick fould off a couple of pitches and then Watt laid a fat pitch down the middle.

Schofield smashed it to right centerfield between Frank Robinson and Blair. He looked like a super mouse running around the bases, and finally he stopped at third once Blair had picked up the ball.

The peewee boss was out again and southpaw Pete Richert pitched to Reggie Smith. Reggie flied to center and the winning run was home.

All that noisy yammering had finally ended.

Wagner was kicking himself for his move with the Orioles and their bases-loaded situation in the seventh. As Buford edged down the line, the little Oriole outfielder finally broke for the plate. Wagner stopped, stepped forward and threw home.

But Buford was given a steal of home since he had induced the pitcher to balk on his break for the plate. The other runners were moved up on the balk.

Romo had to dig out of trouble in the eighth. Dave Johnson singled and Elrod Hendricks walked. Mark Belanger forced Johnson. Terry Crowley pinch hit for the Orioles and fanned, but Carl Yastrzemski fumbled Buford's grounder. Blair fanned with the bases loaded.

And with Merv Rettenmund on third in the ninth, Romo got Johnson to tick a foul for the third strike to end the game.

NOVEMBER 3, 1962

PARILI RESCUES PAT'S TIE

33,247 See QB Pilot 14-Pt. Rally vs. Bills

By John Ahearn, The Boston Globe

BUFFALO - For the third game in a row the Boston Patriots staged a last-half, come-from-behind drive to bail themselves out of a losing situation, and Saturday night in Buffalo's War Memorial Stadium they came up with 14 points in 16 minutes to tie the Buffalo Bills, 28 to 28.

Down by two touchdowns moments after the second half began, the Patriots once more were saved by Babe Parilli, who turned in one of his greatest performances as a Boston player, on a wet cold night that made throwing the ball an almost impossible feat.

Yet, with the largest crowd ever to watch an athletic event in Buffalo - 33,247 - looking on, the Babe who had kept Boston in contention early in the game, coolly and calmly outplayed the Bills' great running back, Cookie Gilchrist, and saved a ball game.

Twice in that half he got Boston going after it seemed all hope was lost. The Babe brought the Patriots in from the Boston 48 in seven plays, the key a daring fourth down and four situation play to Toney Romeo on the Buffalo six. And then with the Bills' line packed to stop the running of Billy Lott, the Babe put the ball right into the outstretched mitts of Gino Cappalletti in the end zone. That one received ideas that this one could be salvaged.

And moments after that score - just two minutes after the last quarter got underway - it was saved. But there was plenty of nail biting by Boston fans before this tie was worked out.

The tying points came about when Ron Hall, a good defensive back, intercepted Warren Rabb's pass on the Boston 38 and lugged it to Boston's 40.

All the Babe needed were two passes - the first to Cappy on the 23, the next to Larry Garron on the six from where he rolled in untouched. Cappy kicked the point that made it all even.

This was a gift, this last touchdown, as no one in the large crowd could figure why Rabb was passing. Until that moment he had finished off only three pass plays, and two were completed because of interference calls. And when he passed to Hall at that point, Buffalo was moving like a freight train with Gilchrist, Wray Carlton and Elbert Dubenion chewing up the wet turf for large gains.

That wasn't the only gift Boston received in that last quarter as a fast whistle on Parilli's only bad play of the period nullified a Buffalo touchdown. That came when Babe refused to be thrown for a loss. He disdained the safe play and threw the ball underhand into the arms of Archie Matsos who went in from 65 yards out. That would have cooked Boston, except for the whistle tooter, referee Bob Finley.

Before the game was more than two minutes along, Buffalo, helped by one of those pass interference calls, had seven points on the board. The official call gave the Bills a first down on the 29 from where Rabb passed to Dubenion to the two. Gilchrist bombed in carrying the left side of Boston's line with him. Then the big guy kicked the point.

Just 17 seconds later Boston was even as Larry Garron went 95 yards with the kickoff. Cappy kicked the point and the team was alive.

Jack Rudolph prevented an immediate repeat of that dash when he caught Ray Abbruzzese who had gone 52 yards with the Boston kickoff and right after that grab Parilli launched the first of his drives. This one to put Boston ahead for the first and only time.

He moved the club 86 yards in eight plays. The big passes were scrfeens to Jim Crawford to the Buffalo 48, to Garron down to the 29, and then a short flip to Burton who caught it on the 20 and wormed his way home.

But this Buffalo team, coached by Boston reject Lou Saban, had a long kickoff run in its own repertoire. Bob Yates' kickoff was taken in the end zone by Willie Jones. Jones handed off to Dubenion on the goal line and Dube ran the whole way. Gilchrist tied it up again just before the wild first quarter ended.

Buffalo's next touchdown was the work of another Boston reject, Leroy Moore who was cut loose only 10 days ago and picked up by Saban only last thursday.

Boston was mired on its 10 and Parilli tried to pass. At the line of scrimmage it hit Moore's outstretched arm and he bounced it off his hands until he finally gained control in the end zone. And then it seemed the home club, looking for its fourth straight victory after five straight losses had attained its goal.

This was a Gilchrist production as he whipped the team home, going 42 yards in eight plays, carrying five times himself, the last time for six yards. He also kicked the point and his team was 14 points ahead.

Now the last ditch act was started and in 16 minutes Parilli accomplished the tie. But neither team was satisfied. With a minute left Parilli was passing for another touchdown which he couldn't get and then with only four seconds left Gilchrist gave it the big try. He went for a 48-yard field goal and the boot fell just short.

Babe's big night consisted of 20 completions in 33 tries for 287 yards. In comparison Rabb had only four of 17 - two by interference call - for 46 yards. Gilchrist was Buffalo's big gun with 107 yards.

OCTOBER 28, 1984

PATRIOTS' LATE SHOW IS A HIT, 30-20

By Ron Borges, The Boston Globe

They could not have even sold this script to the soaps.

After six days of the kind of turmoil and intrigue that fuels the worst episodes of "Days of Our Lives," the Patriots finished off the week of their lives with a rousing, come-from-behind, 30-20 victory over the New York Jets yesterday that was as improbable as everything else that had transpired since former head coach Ron Meyer fired defensive coordinator Rod Rust last Wednesday.

That move resulted in Meyer's own firing 24 hours later and the hiring of Raymond Berry, a coach so honest he would have convinced George Washington to seek out a confessional.

"I knew I'd enjoy this game today because I had such a heck of a seat," Berry said. "I told the team I didn't know one play of

the offense and none of our defenses. But I promised them I'd learn all their names today. I did."

While Berry was learning names and taking numerous notes while pacing the sideline, the Jets were learning what four other New England opponents already know.

"We found out you have to play 60 minutes of football to win in this league," Jets running back Freeman McNeil said. "Once they got going they were like a wounded animal smelling blood. They got more vicious and we couldn't stop them."

McNeil and his teammates gained this valuable knowledge at no small cost, however. They had to blow a 20-6 halftime lead to do it, thus marking the fourth time this season New England had trailed at the half and won at the wire.

At halftime, the members of the Patriots' defense sat together, a downtrodden group but not a beaten one.

They had been embarrassed by the Jets in the first half, pushed from one end of the field to the other. They had given up 209 yards of total offense and four scores in the Jets' final four possessions before the half. This was a group in disarray.

Faced with those particulars, they sat and reminded each other that this time it was their fault and no one else's.

"We did nothing out there to be proud of in the first half," linebacker Andre Tippett would say later. "We didn't want to be sitting watching the films on Monday having to say, 'If we did this and we did that we'd have won.'"

"So we decided to get our butt in gear and play football. The coaches can only do so much. We had to do the rest."

Thus mobilized, that same defense came back and mauled the Jets in the final 30 minutes, holding them to 89 yards of total offense and no points, in the process allowing the New England offense just enough opportunities to ring up 24 points.

Yet in the early moments such a turnaround appeared unlikely after the Jets went to work, beginning with their second possession. They scored on their next four possessions on Pat Leahy field goals of 46 and 18 yards, a seven-yard touchdown pass from Ken O'Brien (who temporarily replaced KO'd starter Pat Ryan) to Rocky Klever, and a two-yard run by Marion Barber.

Through it all, however, the majority of the work was being done by McNeil, who rushed for 75 of his 110 yards in that half. And what he and the Jets were doing was simple: they were running over the Patriots' defense while almost completely shutting down New England's running game, which was already crippled by the loss of All-Pro left guard John Hannah, who was lying in traction in Mass. General with a neck problem.

"We just did nothing in that half," linebacker Steve Nelson admitted. "But we made some simple line changes at halftime and decided to just play our responsibilities. We had to admit to ourselves we hadn't played well."

And while that defense was being hammered, New England's offense was gaining just 19 yards on the ground and scoring only on Tony Franklin field goals of 20 and 27 yards.

"They took away our running game," quarterback Tony Eason explained, "so at halftime we decided to go to high-percentage, short passes that would get us into second-and-short situations."

The Patriots began to get in those situations early in the third quarter as Eason (23 for 35, 273 yards) zeroed in on tight end Lin Dawson (five catches for 56 yards).

With the short game producing yardage, New England drove to the Jet 30 on its second possession before Franklin hit his third field goal, a 47-yarder, which cut the lead to 20-9.

On came the defense to sack O'Brien for a 10-yard loss on third down, forcing New York to punt. In four plays the

scoreboard read "20-16" and the complexion of this matter had changed as Eason ignited things with a 17-yard completion to Stanley Morgan on third and 3, his fourth completion of the third quarter.

"Once we began to hit those passes, that loosened up their defense," Eason said. "Then we got running again."

On the very next play, in fact, Craig James did all the running anyone could ask, taking a handoff and heading wide to his right directly into the teeth of a Jets defense that had been designed to stop exactly such a play. James read the situation immediately, cut back sharply and shot through flatfooted defenders for a 25-yard touchdown that seemed to change the pace of the game and, perhaps, the future of the Patriots.

"The linemen held their blocks and I just cut back and ran," James said. "When I got in the end zone it was like dropping a piano off my back. I'd wanted for so long to make a play that would help this team."

It was the first of several such plays James would make, but perhaps the most helpful one of the afternoon came the next time Eason got the ball, early in the fourth quarter.

It was second and 10 at the Jet 45 when Eason dropped back and looked far downfield for a target. But at the last moment he wheeled to his left and fired a short screen pass to fullback Mosi Tatupu, who shot upfield for a 24-yard gain to the Jet 21.

"I think that was the biggest play of the game," Patriots guard Ron Wooten said. "We had softened them up even after they had stopped us from rushing the ball in the first half. Those passes loosened them up and after we gashed them with Mosi's screen we were able to run again and control the ball."

When Eason drilled a five-yard touchdown pass to Stephen Starring six plays after Tatupu's screen - making it 23-20, Patriots, with 11 minutes to play - New England was also able to take control of the ballgame.

The Jets, however, tried to restart their engine by re-inserting Ryan for O'Brien, but that produced nothing but a growing headache for Ryan, who had been flattened in the first quarter by linebacker Larry McGrew and had never quite recovered. And after another Jet drive ended in a punt, Eason and James went back to work.

First, Eason threw over the Jets (to Dawson for 24 yards and to James for 12). Then James ran through them (for 13, 2, 8 and 14 yards) until Tony Collins finally ran up the middle for a four-yard touchdown with 2:43 to play. And that wrote the last lines of a soap opera that will be on location in Denver for its next episode.

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